FBI Reveals Threat To Agent By Oswald

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—(AP)—The FBI disclosed Saturday night that Lee Harvey Oswald delivered a note threatening one of its Dallas agents days before the assassination of President Kennedy and that the visit was never previously reported and the note was destroyed.

"FBI inquiries to date establish that the note contained no reference to President Kennedy or in any way would have forewarned of the subsequent assassination," FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley said in a statement.

But he said the FBI is investigating to learn more about the incident. The FBI said it learned of the Oswald visit as a result of information provided by the Dallas Times Herald.

Kelley said the note delivered to the FBI office in Dallas by Oswald was a warning to an agent who had visited Oswald's wife, Marina, as part of an investigation. It warned the agent to desist from further interviews of Mrs. Oswald, Kelley said.

Oswald has been identified in the Warren Commission report as the sole assassin of President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

In a copyright story by publisher Tom Johnson in its Sunday editions, the Times Herald said Oswald was not placed under surveillance after his visit to the FBI office. The FBI visit to the Oswald home was described in the Warren Commission report as a routine check of persons who lived in the Communist bloc. Oswald and his wife Marina lived in the Soviet Union in the early 1960s.

The Times Herald story said the agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office at the time was J. Gordon Shanklin. Shanklin was quoted in the story as saying he never knew of the threatening Oswald letter.

It said Shanklin identified the agent who visited Mrs. Oswald as James P. Hosty Jr., now an agent in Kansas City. "I am not in a position to say anything on that," Hosty was quoted as telling the Times Herald. "I think I'm right so I'll just go along and take orders," he added.

Hosty could not be reached for comment Saturday night.

The newspaper quoted a source as saying, "I don't believe that (J. Edgar) Hoover or Mr. Shanklin ever knew of the existence of the letter. They would have gone through the roof."

Kelley's statement said the FBI inquiries tend to corroborate that the Oswald letter was destroyed shortly after Kennedy's assassination. "Inquiries are continuing to determine the full facts concerning the handling of this matter," he said.

The Times Herald said Kelley's investigation was aimed at the Oswald visit and possible criminal violations in connection with the destruction of the note and failure to report the incident. An FBI man in Washington refused to characterize it as a criminal investigation.

Kelley said Atty. Gen. Edward Levi has been informed of the progress of the FBI inquiries from their inception.

Details of the Oswald note were not clear. "Although recollections vary as to the wording of the note, it was for the purpose of warning the agent to desist from further interviews of his wife," Kelley said.

The Times Herald said Oswald's wife was contacted by the FBI on Nov. 1, which was 21 days before the assassination. Another attempt was made on Nov. 5, but was not successful, the story said.

In the first visit, "Marina became frightened during the interview and Lee was not there at the time and the agent left, apparently because of her inability to understand English well," the Times Herald said, quoting a source.

"Prior to the current FBI inquiries," Kelley said, "there had been no information concerning this visit and note recorded in FBI records and inquiries tend to corroborate that shortly after the assassination the note in question was destroyed."

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